

Remarks / Arguments

In the specification, the last paragraph on page 2 has been corrected so as not to refer to cancelled claims. Said paragraph now refers to 'the appended claims'.

Newly amended claim 18 combines the features from previous claims 18 and 20 (thus corresponding to previous claims 10, 11 and 15).

Claims 18, 19 and 21-24 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,716,988 in view of US 5,492,534, as well as over US 5,716,988 in view of US 6,007,529.

The Applicant had noted with appreciation that the Examiner had regarded previous claim 15 as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including limitations of the base claim and intervening claims.

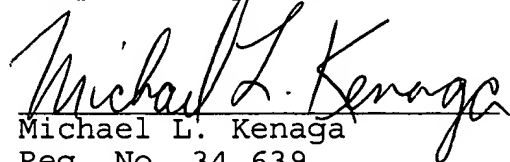
It is respectfully submitted that amended claim 18 now reflects this suggestion of the Examiner in so far as the limitations of claims 10 and 11 have been combined and a more restricted definition has been given of the plastic material and the structure of the flexible bag.

The Applicant agrees with the remarks by the Examiner, in so far as none of the cited references teaches nor suggests a flexible bag having as its outer envelope a film of polyamide of 11-amino-undecanoic acid bonded by at least one of its surfaces to a film of polypropylene by means of a film of polyolefine, the polypropylene film forming the internal layer of the flexible bag, as recited in claim 18. Similarly, a bag consisting of a material comprising 70% polypropylene and 30% 11-amino-undecanoic acid (as recited in claim 24) is neither taught nor suggested by cited references.

It is therefore respectfully submitted that the presently claimed matter is non-obvious, and thus complies with 35 USC 103.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in proper form for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Michael L. Kenaga  
Reg. No. 34,639

**PIPER RUDNICK LLP**

P.O. Box 64807

Chicago, Illinois 60664-0807

Phone: 312/368-4000

Customer No.: 28465